

MULTILATERAL FUND FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE MONTREAL PROTOCOL

Summary of the 97th meeting of the Executive Committee

This summary is intended to provide a brief overview of the decisions taken at the 97th meeting of the Executive Committee. The meeting report (UNEP/OzL.Pro/ExCom/97/91) can be found at <https://multilateralfund.org/meetings/97/post-session>

Introduction

The 97th meeting took place from **1 to 5 December 2025** at the headquarters of the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO), Montreal, Canada and was attended by representative of 14 Executive Committee member countries and participants co-opted from 33 other countries, implementing agencies (IAs), the Ozone Secretariat, and other observers. Mr. Alessandro Guiliano Peru of Italy presided as Chair of the Executive Committee during the meeting.

At this meeting, the Committee took a total of 92 decisions, and approved project and work programme activities for 74 countries and one global region, with a value of US \$100,127,382, including agency support costs for bilateral and IAs.

Secretariat activities

The Executive Committee took note, with appreciation, of the report on Secretariat activities contained in document UNEP/OzL.Pro/ExCom/97/2.

Financial matters

Status of contributions and disbursements¹ (decision 97/1)

At the opening of the present meeting, the balance of the Fund stood at US \$661,839,023 in cash. Since the previous Executive Committee meeting, the total loss on the fixed-exchange rate mechanism had decreased by approximately US \$1,100,000. The cumulative loss on the fixed-exchange rate mechanism therefore stood at approximately US \$29.6 million. The Executive Committee noted the report of the Treasurer on the status of contributions and disbursements, decided to request the Chief Officer and the Treasurer to continue following up with parties that had outstanding contributions for one triennium or more, and to report back at the 98th meeting, and urged all Parties to pay their contributions to the Multilateral Fund in full and as early as possible.

Report on balances and availability of resources² (decision 97/2)

IAs returned balances of US \$4,977,871, including agency support costs, against completed projects to the Multilateral Fund. The Government of Germany returned US \$66,267, including support costs, for two completed projects. UNDP and UNIDO were requested to proceed with disbursement or to cancel committed funds that were not needed for completed projects and to return the associated balances at the 98th meeting, to proceed with disbursement or to cancel commitments for projects completed over two years previously, and to return balances at the 98th meeting. UNDP was requested to proceed with disbursement or return at the 98th meeting, the balances of the project funded from the additional voluntary contributions.

¹ UNEP/OzL.Pro/ExCom/97/3 and annex I of the meeting report

² UNEP/OzL.Pro/ExCom/97/4

Accounts of the Multilateral Fund

Final 2024 accounts (decision 97/3)

The Executive Committee noted the final audited financial statements of the Multilateral Fund as at 31 December 2024,³ prepared in accordance with the International Public Sector Accounting Standards, and requested the Treasurer to record in the 2025 accounts of the Multilateral Fund the differences between the IAs' provisional 2024 financial statements and their final 2024 statements.

Reconciliation of the 2024 accounts (decision 97/4)

The Executive Committee noted the reconciliation of the 2024 accounts,⁴ requested the Treasurer to deduct from future transfers at the 97th meeting, and requested the relevant IAs to carry out a number of adjustments and related actions. The Committee noted the 2024 outstanding reconciling items to be updated prior to the 99th meeting by relevant IAs and the standing reconciling items for specified and unspecified projects from the relevant IAs.

Revised 2026, 2027 and proposed 2028 budgets of the Fund Secretariat (decision 97/5)

The Executive Committee noted the revised 2026, 2027, and proposed 2028 budgets of the Fund Secretariat⁵ and the return of funds from the approved 2024 budget and the budget of the monitoring and evaluation work programme. The Committee approved the revised budgets of US \$9,670,045 and US \$9,581,735 for 2026 and 2027 respectively, and the proposed budget of the Secretariat for 2028 in the amount of US \$9,670,045.⁶

Country programme data and prospects for compliance⁷ (decision 97/6)

One hundred forty-two countries submitted their country programme (CP) data reports for 2024 and prospects for compliance as at 1 December 2025, with one country yet to submit its 2024 CP data. The Executive Committee noted that the new online CP data reporting system had been officially launched on 1 January 2025 and that, as at 1 December 2025, it has been used by 126 countries. The Committee requested the Secretariat to send a letter to the Government of the country with outstanding data for 2024, urging it to submit its report as soon as possible.

Evaluation

Evaluation of the performance of implementing agencies against their 2024 business plans (decision 97/7)

The Executive Committee noted the evaluation of the performance of IAs against their 2024 business plans,⁸ and noted with appreciation, the efforts undertaken by bilateral and IAs to have open and constructive discussions with the respective national ozone units about the areas in which their services were perceived to be less than satisfactory. The Committee encouraged national ozone units to submit, on a yearly basis and in a timely manner, their assessments of the qualitative performance of the bilateral and IAs assisting their governments, noting that 93 of the 144 countries had submitted such assessments for 2024, compared with 88 in 2023.

³ UNEP/OzL.Pro/ExCom/97/5

⁴ UNEP/OzL.Pro/ExCom.97/6

⁵ UNEP/OzL.Pro/ExCom/97/7

⁶ Annex II of the meeting report

⁷ UNEP/OzL.Pro/ExCom/97/8

⁸ UNEP/OzL.Pro/ExCom/97/9

Annual report on the implementation of the monitoring and evaluation work programme for 2025 and the updated work programme for 2026 (decision 97/8)

The Executive Committee noted the annual report on the implementation of the monitoring and evaluation work programme for 2025, including on the trial experience of a biennial cycle for the work programme and budget, and the evaluation work programme for 2026⁹ and to approve the evaluation work programme for 2026,¹⁰ noting that the provisional remaining balance of the 2025 budget amounting to US \$131,759 would be carried forward to the related evaluation budget for the year 2026.

Programme implementation

Consolidated progress report and progress reports of bilateral and IAs as at 31 December 2024 (decisions 97/9 to 97/14)

The Executive Committee noted the consolidated progress report of the Multilateral Fund as at 31 December 2024.¹¹ The Committee noted, with appreciation, the efforts undertaken by bilateral and IAs in reporting their 2024 activities and that the bilateral and IAs would report, at the 98th meeting, on 78 projects with implementation delays and 14 ongoing projects recommended for additional status reports. The Committee approved extension of the completion dates of three projects being implemented by bilateral agencies¹² and additional extensions for relevant projects by UNDP,¹³ UNEP,¹⁴ UNIDO¹⁵ and the World Bank¹⁶ as outlined in the respective documents.

Reports on projects with specific reporting requirements with no outstanding issues¹⁷ (decisions 97/15 to 97/19)

The Executive Committee took note of the status and progress or took decisions to approve or follow up on specific issues, on those related to: the HCFC phase-out management plans (HPMPs) for four countries,¹⁸ the draft Agreements for stage I of Kigali Implementation Plans (KIPs) for 14 countries,¹⁹ the report related to additional activities to maintain energy efficiency in the refrigeration sector under decision 89/6 for Kyrgyzstan, the request for change of IA for stage III of the HPMP and stage I of the KIP for Armenia and the report related to a request for cancellation of various projects from Nicaragua.

Reports on projects with outstanding issues for individual consideration²⁰ (decisions 97/20 to 97/22)

The Executive Committee noted the reports related to HPMPs for three countries and approved the extension of the duration of stage II of the HPMP for the Islamic Republic of Iran. The Committee approved the reallocation of balances from one project in Pakistan, as the relevant enterprise had ceased its manufacturing operations, and noted the return to be made by UNIDO at the 98th meeting. The Committee noted the progress report, submitted by UNEP on behalf of the Government of Qatar, on the implementation of commitments listed in decision 88/54(e)(i), (ii) and (iii) in the context of stage II of the HPMP for Qatar.

⁹ UNEP/OzL.Pro/ExCom/97/10

¹⁰ Annex III of the meeting report

¹¹ UNEP/OzL.Pro/ExCom/97/11

¹² UNEP/OzL.Pro/ExCom/97/12

¹³ UNEP/OzL.Pro/ExCom/97/13

¹⁴ UNEP/OzL.Pro/ExCom/97/14

¹⁵ UNEP/OzL.Pro/ExCom/97/15

¹⁶ UNEP/OzL.Pro/ExCom/97/16

¹⁷ UNEP/OzL.Pro/ExCom/97/17

¹⁸ Bahrain, Iraq, Lebanon, and Lesotho

¹⁹ Albania, Armenia, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Chile, Colombia, Congo, Costa Rica, Cuba, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Guatemala, and Honduras

²⁰ UNEP/OzL.Pro/ExCom/97/18

Business planning

Update on the status of implementation of the 2025–2027 consolidated business plan of the Multilateral Fund (decision 97/23)

The Executive Committee noted the update on the status of implementation of the 2025–2027 consolidated business plan of the Multilateral Fund and financial planning for the triennium 2024–2026²¹ and that the total value of activities recommended to the 97th meeting amounted to US \$108,014,129 (including US \$12,667,813 for HFC-related activities; US \$3,987,881 for pilot projects for energy efficiency pursuant to decision 91/65; US \$21,262,663 for energy-efficiency projects pursuant to decision 94/60; and US \$2,674,620 for the preparation of national inventories of banks of waste controlled substances pursuant to decision 91/66), of which US \$10,304,295 was associated with project proposals not included in the 2025 business plan.

Consolidated business plan of the Multilateral Fund for 2026–2028 (decision 97/24)

The Executive Committee noted the consolidated business plan of the Multilateral Fund for 2026–2028,²² adjusted as proposed by the Secretariat, and by adding to the 2026 business plan projects and activities that had been deferred at the 97th meeting, and by taking into account the values approved in principle at the 97th meeting for new HPMPs and KIPs. The Committee requested the Secretariat to prepare a brief document for consideration at the 99th meeting on updating the guidelines on project preparation for stage I of KIPs for use during preparation of stage II of KIPs, and endorsed the consolidated business plan of the Multilateral Fund for 2026–2028, as adjusted by the Secretariat and the Executive Committee, whilst noting that endorsement did not denote approval of the projects identified therein or their funding or tonnage levels.²³

2026–2028 business plans of the bilateral and implementing agencies (decisions 97/25 to 97/29)

The Executive Committee noted the business plans for 2026–2028 submitted by the Governments of Australia, France, Germany, Italy and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland,²⁴ and that the level of activities in the business plan of the Government of Germany for 2026–2028 should be considered in light of the bilateral activity allocation for the triennium 2024–2026. The business plans for 2026–2028 of the IAs²⁵ were noted, and performance indicators were approved for UNDP, UNEP, UNIDO and the World Bank.²⁶

Project proposals

Overview of issues identified during project review²⁷

Issues related to HCFC phase-out management plans (decision 97/30)

The Executive Committee requested UNIDO, as the IA, to assist the Government of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela in conducting an updated market demand analysis to determine current HCFC requirements and to include the findings of that analysis in the resubmission of the fourth tranche of stage II of the HPMP for the country, after the HPMP was submitted and subsequently withdrawn at the present meeting.

²¹ UNEP/OzL.Pro/ExCom/97/19

²² UNEP/OzL.Pro/ExCom/97/20

²³ The adjusted 2026–2028 consolidated business plan is available at <https://www.multilateralfund.org/about>

²⁴ UNEP/OzL.Pro/ExCom/97/21

²⁵ UNEP/OzL.Pro/ExCom/97/22 to UNEP/OzL.Pro/ExCom/97/25

²⁶ Annexes XXIV to XXVII of the meeting report

²⁷ UNEP/OzL.Pro/ExCom/97/26

Methodology used to calculate the climate impacts from the implementation of Kigali HFC implementation plans

The Executive Committee agreed to continue, at its 98th meeting, consideration of the issue of the methodology used to calculate the climate impact of the implementation of KIPs, using the working documents used by the contact group.²⁸

Consideration of an extension of the funding window for the preparation of national inventories of banks of used or unwanted controlled substances and a plan for the collection, transport and disposal of such substances under decision 91/66 (decision 97/31)

The Executive Committee decided not to extend the funding window established pursuant to decision 91/66.

Issues related to projects submitted under the operational framework on energy efficiency under decisions 94/60 and 95/87 (decisions 97/32 and 97/33)

The Executive Committee considered three issues and approved the additional conditions for enterprises with less than 50 per cent of their manufacturing volume qualifying for the additional component incentive.²⁹ The Committee agreed to defer, to a future meeting, consideration of the provision of additional capital costs to manufacturers that used complete knock-down kits. The Committee noted that the Secretariat would use either the latest year or the average of the three years preceding project submission to determine the manufacturing volumes.

Bilateral cooperation³⁰ (decision 97/35)

The Executive Committee requested the Treasurer to offset the costs of the bilateral projects approved at the 97th meeting in the amount of US \$190,729 (including agency support costs) against the balance of the bilateral contribution of the Government of Germany for 2024-2026 and US \$607,871 (including agency support costs) against the balance of the bilateral contribution of the Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland for 2024-2026.

Approved projects³¹ (decisions 97/35 to 97/84)

Funding of US **\$100,127,382**, including agency support costs was approved inter alia for: renewals of institutional strengthening (IS) projects for 5 countries³² (US \$1,036,547); preparation for stage II/III of HPMPs for four countries³³ (US \$209,000); verifications on the implementation of stage I of KIPs for seven countries³⁴ (US \$214,950); enabling activities for HFC phase-down for Yemen (US \$267,500); preparation for KIPs for four countries³⁵ (US \$866,800); preparation of national inventory of banks of waste controlled substances and development of a national plan for management of these substances for 28 countries³⁶ (US \$2,674,620); new stage II/III of HPMPs for seven countries³⁷ (first tranche amounting to

²⁸ Annex XXVIII of the meeting report

²⁹ As specified in subparagraphs 40(a) and (b) of document UNEP/OzL.Pro/ExCom/97/26

³⁰ UNEP/OzL.Pro/ExCom/97/27

³¹ UNEP/OzL.Pro/ExCom/97/28 and UNEP/OzL.Pro/ExCom/97/29

³² Bosnia and Herzegovina, Cabo Verde, Djibouti, Equatorial Guinea, Suriname

³³ Central African Republic, Qatar, Serbia, Syrian Arab Republic

³⁴ Albania, the Congo, Cuba, Kyrgyzstan, Malawi, Mozambique, North Macedonia

³⁵ Bahrain, Brunei Darussalam, Kuwait, Pakistan

³⁶ Algeria, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Cabo Verde, Central African Republic, Chad, Comoros, Cote D'Ivoire, Democratic Republic of Congo, Equatorial Guinea, Gabon, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Jordan, Lebanon, Malaysia, Mali, Morocco, Pakistan, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Sao Tome and Principe, Serbia, Syrian Arab Republic, Tunisia

³⁷ Angola, Argentina, Bangladesh, Cameroon, Djibouti, Egypt, Mali

US \$11,037,261); tranches of HPMPs for 19 countries³⁸ (US \$35,436,987); stage I of the KIPs for 11 countries³⁹ (first tranches amounting to US \$3,625,998); tranches of KIPs for two countries⁴⁰ (US \$305,665); tranches of a HFC-23 emission control plan for Argentina (US \$103,549); preparation for a pilot project to maintain and/or enhance the energy efficiency of replacement technologies and equipment in the context of HFC phase-down (decisions 91/65 and 95/87) for two countries⁴¹ (US \$64,200); pilot projects to maintain and/or enhance the energy efficiency of replacement technologies and equipment in the context of HFC phase-down (decision 91/65) for 12 countries⁴² (US \$3,352,386); additional activities to maintain energy efficiency in the servicing sector (decision 89/6) for seven countries⁴³ (US \$893,168); pilot project on energy efficiency (decision 95/87) for Egypt (US \$1,343,118); and pilot projects on energy efficiency (decisions 94/60) for three countries⁴⁴ (US \$19,887,445).

UNEP's Compliance Assistance Programme (decision 97/85)

The Executive Committee noted the 2025 progress report and the 2026 work plan and budget for the UNEP Compliance Assistance Programme (CAP)⁴⁵ and approved the CAP activities and budget for 2026⁴⁶ in the amount of US \$11,276,967, plus agency support costs of 8 per cent amounting to US \$902,157, noting the adjustments proposed therein. The Committee decided that the human and financial resources approved for UNEP through the CAP budget should continue to be used only for activities approved by the Executive Committee in accordance with the terms of reference for the financial mechanism contained in Article 10 of the Montreal Protocol and in line with decisions 50/26(c) and 73/53. The Committee requested UNEP, in future submissions of the CAP budget to continue providing detailed information on the activities for which the global funds would be used, continue extending the prioritization of funding between CAP budget lines to accommodate changing priorities and to provide details on the reallocations made, continue reporting on the current post levels of staff and informing the Executive Committee of any changes thereto, and to continue providing a budget for the year in question, and a report on the costs incurred in the year prior to the previous year.

2026 core unit costs for UNDP, UNIDO and the World Bank⁴⁷ (decision 97/86)

The Executive Committee approved core unit funding for 2026 for UNDP of US \$2,388,151, UNIDO of US \$2,293,768 and the World Bank of US \$1,947,145, and noted with appreciation, that the core unit operations of the World Bank were below its budgeted levels and that the World Bank would return unused balances at the 97th meeting.

Update on the operationalization of centres of excellence for sustainable cooling and testing centres for energy efficiency -decision 95/87(e) (decisions 97/87 and 97/88)

On centres of excellence for sustainable cooling, the Executive Committee requested the Multilateral Fund Secretariat and UNEP CAP, through its networks of national ozone units and the energy-efficiency twinning project, to facilitate regional or subregional consultations, including with interested bilateral and IAs, to

³⁸ Angola, Argentina, Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Chad, Cuba, Madagascar, Mauritania, Montenegro, Namibia, Oman, Peru, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Serbia, Senegal, South Africa, South Sudan, Tunisia

³⁹ Angola, Botswana, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Fiji, Guinea-Bissau, Mongolia, Serbia, Somalia, South Africa, United Republic of Tanzania

⁴⁰ Niger, Turkmenistan

⁴¹ Chile, South Africa

⁴² Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Dominican Republic, Georgia, Lebanon, Morocco, Panama, Paraguay, Republic of Moldova, Serbia, Sierra Leone, Togo

⁴³ Brunei Darussalam, Chad, Congo, El Salvador, Guinea-Bissau, Madagascar, Senegal

⁴⁴ Egypt, Morocco, Tunisia

⁴⁵ UNEP/OzL.Pro/ExCom/97/83 and Add.1

⁴⁶ Annex LIX of the meeting report

⁴⁷ UNEP/OzL.Pro/ExCom/97/84

collect information in interested regions/subregions on: existing centres of excellence that provided services in the refrigeration, air-conditioning and heat pump sector, including the particular services they provided, their mode of operation and financing, whether they generated revenue and if so, how, and their potential to serve as regional thematic centres and; the interest of various subregions in hosting a thematic regional centre, including the particular themes of interest of the subregion and the possibility of the relevant/applicable Governments providing counterpart support for the long-term operation of the centres.

The Committee also requested the Secretariat to prepare, for the 99th meeting, an update to document UNEP/Oz.L.Pro/ExCom/97/85 on regional thematic centres, including information on existing relevant regional centres and the countries interested in hosting them, any outcome of the information requested from the Secretariat and the CAP, and information prepared by the Ozone Secretariat as per decision XXXVII/5, on national and regional initiatives to support the implementation of the Kigali Amendment to the Montreal Protocol, if available, and options for securing long-term support after project completion, taking into account the discussion at the 97th meeting of the Executive Committee.

On the issue of the operationalization of testing centres for energy efficiency, the Executive Committee decided to consider providing funding to strengthen or upgrade existing energy-efficiency testing centres in manufacturing countries, in the context of proposals made or submitted under decision 94/60, taking into account the information provided in the document prepared by the Secretariat;⁴⁸ and requested the Secretariat to prepare, for the 98th meeting, a document providing additional information on the purpose, objective and sustainability of new energy-efficiency testing centres in non-manufacturing countries, possibly identifying one or more subregions where such centres would be needed to assist Article 5 countries in meeting minimum energy performance standards developed with Multilateral Fund support.

Report pursuant to decision 93/104 on life-cycle refrigerant management with a view to considering the establishment of a funding window in line with decision XXXV/11 of the Thirty-Fifth Meeting of the Parties (decision 97/89)

The Executive Committee noted the report prepared by the Secretariat⁴⁹ and encouraged the bilateral and IAs to intensify their efforts to assist Article 5 countries in finalizing projects under decision 91/66 as soon as feasible and in submitting the final reports and a copy of the resulting national inventories and national action plans in line with decision 91/66(e)(iii). The Committee also requested the Secretariat to update the information in the above-mentioned report in light of completed inventory projects and national plans and other relevant information, including on the movement of controlled substances for destruction or reclamation.

Additionally, the Committee requested the Secretariat to prepare, for the 100th meeting, a document on funding modalities, including elements for draft cost guidelines to implement plans developed in accordance with decision 91/66, with a view to considering the establishment of a funding window in line with decision XXXV/11, taking into consideration the information provided in the aforementioned report and the views on that report expressed by the Executive Committee.

Review of the possibility of integration of reporting through project completion reports and detailed final project reports -decision 95/91(e)- (decision 97/90)

The Executive Committee noted the review prepared by the Secretariat,⁵⁰ and decided to continue the current practice of final reporting by bilateral and IAs for different types of projects, except for individual demonstration or pilot projects. For demonstration or pilot projects, where a detailed final report was required, the Committee requested the Secretariat, when developing the format for the final reports, to align

⁴⁸ UNEP/OzL.Pro/ExCom/97/86

⁴⁹ UNEP/OzL.Pro/ExCom/97/87

⁵⁰ UNEP/OzL.Pro/ExCom/97/88

it with the universal format for project completion reports, where applicable, noting that a separate submission of a project completion report would no longer be required for that type of projects.

Report of the Sub-group on the Production Sector

The Sub-group on the Production Sector (Argentina, Canada (facilitator), Cuba, China, Italy, Lesotho, Sweden and the United States of America) met on 2, 4, and 5 December 2025 in the margins of the 97th meeting. The Sub-group took one decision. The Executive Committee took note of the report of the Sub-group contained in document UNEP/OzL.Pro/ExCom/97/90, agreed on the recommendations made and adopted one decision:

HCFC production phase-out management plan (HPPMP) for China: 2024 verification report of the HCFC production sector (decision 97/91)

The Executive Committee noted the 2024 verification report of the HCFC production sector in China considered by the Sub-group and requested the World Bank to include in the 2025 HCFC production verification an explanation of the differences between the verified 2024 HCFC production for controlled uses and verified 2024 HCFC consumption and that reported under Article 7 of the Montreal Protocol, and between the quantities of HFC-23 by-product reported to have been destroyed under Article 7 and those contained in the 2024 HCFC production verification report; and an update on the status of two production lines' relocation and closures of two plants.

The Committee also requested the World Bank to verify, on a one-off basis, that the newly established production lines that were expected to start production in 2025 and 2026 were vertically integrated with the relevant downstream facilities and that all HCFCs produced on the lines would be exclusively for feedstock use and to submit a report thereon to the last meeting of 2026, and 2027 respectively.

The Committee decided to continue to consider the issue of HCFCs in high-boiling waste residue at the 98th meeting, taking into account decision 94/61 and information prepared by the Secretariat.

Other matters

Dates and venues (decision 97/92)

The Executive Committee decided to hold the 102nd meeting from 29 May to 2 June 2028, and the 103rd meeting from 4 to 8 December 2028, at the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO), in Montreal Canada.